



Department of Mental Health



For Immediate Release

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South Pasadena's Carmen Gatica Sandate Named as "Outstanding Service to Consumer Employee of the Year"

LOS ANGELES (Tue., May 23, 2006) – The County of Los Angeles Department of Mental Health (DMH) continued its observance of national "May is Mental Health Month" by presenting Carmen Gatica Sandate of South Pasadena with the "Outstanding Service to Consumer Employee of the Year" Award at a special ceremony held at Descanso Gardens located in La Canada Flintridge.

The "Outstanding Service to Consumer Employee of the Year" honor is awarded to the DMH employee who provides direct treatment/rehabilitative/consultative services to consumers in an outpatient setting, hospital, jail, juvenile facility or field setting.

For the past three years, Gatica Sandate has provided emergency and homeless outreach services to individuals and families living in and around downtown Los Angeles and Hollywood areas as part of the Department of Mental Health's Emergency Outreach Bureau. As a crisis screener, Gatica Sandate's Spanish-speaking ability was utilized extensively during the 2005 Metrolink train derailment in Glendale. She was most recently honored by the County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors as the 2006 "County's Employee of the Month" for May.

This afternoon, the Department honored five other individuals including Annette Haley of Los Angeles (Program Support), Surendra Prakash of Fullerton (Headquarters Support), Judy Leevarinpanich, L.C.S.W. of Rosemead (Supervisor of the Year), Wendi Tovey of Thousand Oaks (Manager of the Year) and Suzane Wilbur, M.S., R.N.C.S. of Arcadia (Department of Mental Health Life Achievement).

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